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HOCKEY

Terengganu HT players and officials celebrate after winning the TNB Cup.
— Picture by Hari Anggara



Unstoppable Terengganu

KUALA LUMPUR — Terengganu Hockey Team (THT) beat Sapura Hockey Club 3-0 in the TNB Cup final yesterday to bring the curtains down on the Malaysian Hockey League season.

It was the third consecutive season the east coast side have won the double — they also won the league crown last week.

The teams made the final in contrasting styles.

Sapura needed penalties to beat Kuala Lumpur Hockey Club 4-2 after their two-legged semifinal ended 4-4 while THT hammered Maybank 14-5 on aggregate.

It was a fast and furious match and THT put their stamp on the final when South Korean penalty corner specialist

Jang Jong-hyun gave them the lead after six minutes.

It became 2-0 in the 22nd minute when Nicolas Enrique Della Torre blasted the ball past the hapless goalkeeper and Jong-hyun killed off any hopes of a fight back with his second in the 51st minute.

Jong-hyun scored 16 goals in the premier division and won RM2,000 for being top scorer while Fitri Saari was Man-of-the-Match.

“I want to dedicate this win to the people of Terengganu,” said Fitri.

“Coach Sarjit (Singh) told us to put in the effort, be disciplined and focused and we will win. We did not have good pre-season but we managed to win both titles.”

The final also used video referrals for the first time and several penalty corner decisions were reversed.

Sapura coach Yahya Atan was disappointed as they played second fiddle to TNT once again after they finished runners-up in the league, a point behind the champions.

“THT scored many goals from penalty corner in the league. If we had video referrals earlier, perhaps they would not have scored so many,” lamented Yahya.

THT bagged RM100,000 for winning the league and another RM100,000 for the TNB Cup, while Sapura won RM60,000 for finishing second in the league and the same amount for the losing the final.